10 Essential Verbs

for Speaking Like a Native

Goals

Master everyday verb phrases that non-native speakers often struggle to remember.
These phrases may look simple, but knowing how to use them naturally can be challenging.
Practice with real-life examples to build confidence and speak more fluently!

cake

1. Take

Learn common phrases with "take" and practice the sentences below!

1	**take a bus/train** *ride a bus/train*	**I take a bus** to work.
2	**take medicine** *eat medicine*	I need to **take some medicine**.
3	**take a picture** *capture a photo*	Look! I **took a** beautiful **picture**.
4	**take a shower** *wash yourself in the shower*	Did you **take a shower**?
5	**take a seat** *sit down*	Please. **Take a seat**.
6	**take a break** *rest for a short time*	Let's **take a break**!
7	**take a long time** *use a lot of time*	He is **taking a long time**.
8	**take a trip** *go on a journey*	Let's **take a trip** to New York!
9	**take a course** *join a class or program*	Nowadays, you can **take courses** online.
10	**take a chance** *try something challenging*	You should **take your chance**.

2. Do

Learn common phrases with "do" and practice the sentences below!

1	**do someone a favor** *help someone*	Could you **do me a favor**?
2	**do someone's best** *try as hard as you can*	You can **do your best**!
3	**do something wrong** *make a mistake*	What happened? Did you **do something wrong**?
4	**do the dishes/housework** *clean dishes or do chores*	I have to **do the dishes** right away.
5	**do the math** *calculate numbers*	Come on, **do the math**!
6	**do a good/great job** *do something well*	You **did a great job** saving that dog.
7	**do badly** *do something poorly*	I **did badly** at the job interview.
8	**do nothing** *stay inactive*	I **do nothing** on Wednesday.
9	**do business** *work with someone*	It was a pleasure **doing business** with you.
10	**do the paperwork** *complete documents*	I have to **do** all this **paperwork!**

3. get

Learn common phrases with "get" and practice the sentences below!

1	**get married** *become husband and wife*	I'm **getting married** next week.
2	**get ready** *prepare yourself*	I'm **getting ready** for my work.
3	**get excited** *feel very happy*	He **got** really **excited** for his party.
4	**get angry** *become upset*	I **got** really **angry** when he said that.
5	**get a job** *find a job*	Yes, I **got a job**!
6	**get hungry** *start feeling hungry*	Are you finished yet? I'm **getting hungry**.
7	**get drunk** *drink too much alcohol*	I never **get drunk**.
8	**get home** *arrive at home*	I **got home** early yesterday.
9	**get lost** *can't find your way*	Where is the Starbucks? I **got lost**!
10	**get hold of** *contact someone*	I **got hold of** him on the phone.

4. come

Learn common phrases with "come" and practice the sentences below!

1	**come in a color** *be available in a color*	Does it **come in** yellow?
2	**come first/last** *finish first/last*	My favorite athlete **came first**!
3	**come early/late** *arrive early or late*	You **came late**. The party's over.
4	**come on time** *arrive at the right time*	I always try to **come on time**.
5	**come prepared** *be ready*	I've **come prepared** for my test.
6	**come up with** *think of an idea*	She **came up with** a great idea this morning.
7	**come clean** *tell the truth*	I'll **come clean**.
8	**come in handy** *be useful*	This will **come in handy**.
9	**come to an end** *finish*	It had to **come to an end**.
10	**come to a stop** *stop moving*	The train has **come to a stop**.

5. go

Learn common phrases with "go" and practice the sentences below!

1	**go abroad** *travel to another country*	I want to **go abroad** some day!
2	**go bad** *rot or spoil*	Eww. This apple has **gone bad**.
3	**go bankrupt** *lose all your money*	The company **went bankrupt**.
4	**go online** *use the internet*	Many college classes **have gone online**.
5	**go insane** *go crazy*	She's **gone insane**.
6	**go smoothly** *go well without problems*	Everything is **going smoothly** as planned.
7	**go missing** *disappear*	The child **went missing**.
8	**go out of fashion** *become unpopular*	It **went out of fashion**.
9	**go on a picnic** *eat outside*	We're **going on a picnic**!
10	**go on foot** *walk*	I **go** to school **on foot**.

6. have

Learn common phrases with "have" and practice the sentences below!

1	**have breakfast/lunch/dinner** *eat a meal*	Why don't we **have lunch** at 1?
2	**have a drink** *drink alcohol*	Let's **have a drink** sometime!
3	**have a good time** *enjoy the moment*	My friends and I **had a good time**.
4	**have a haircut** *cut your hair*	I just **had a haircut**.
5	**have a fight** *argue or hit someone*	I just **had a** huge **fight** with my boyfriend.
6	**have a problem** *face an issue*	You **have a problem**.
7	**have a meeting** *meet to talk*	I **have a meeting** this afternoon.
8	**have fun** *enjoy*	So, did you **have fun**?
9	**have a baby** *give birth*	Julie is **having a baby**?
10	**have a dream** *imagine when sleeping*	You **had a dream** about me?

7. make

Learn common phrases with "make" and practice the sentences below!

1	**make breakfast/lunch/dinner** *cook a meal*	I'll **make breakfast** today!
2	**make a promise** *say you will do something*	What? You **made a promise**!
3	**make a phone call** *call someone*	Oh, I need to **make a phone call** to Chris.
4	**make an effort** *try hard*	You should **make an effort**.
5	**make a noise** *be loud*	This laptop is **making a** weird **noise**.
6	**make a difference** *change something*	It doesn't **make a difference**.
7	**make a mess** *make something dirty*	He **made a mess** again!
8	**make a choice** *decide something*	Now I need to **make a choice**.
9	**make a point** *share an idea or opinion*	I think you **make a great point**.
10	**make a fortune** *earn a lot of money*	He **made a fortune** from his business.

8. catch

Learn common phrases with "catch" and practice the sentences below!

1	**catch a cold/the flu** *get sick*	A-chu! I think I've **caught a cold**.
2	**catch a bus/train** *get on a bus/train*	I need to **catch a bus** soon!
3	**catch a ball** *grab a ball in your hands*	The baseball player **caught the ball**.
4	**catch a thief** *stop someone stealing*	The police has finally **caught the thief**.
5	**catch someone later** *see someone at another time*	Okay! Bye. **Catch you later**!
6	**catch fire** *start burning*	My food **caught fire** in the microwave!
7	**catch sight of** *notice something*	I **caught sight of** your ex-boyfriend.
8	**catch one's attention** *make someone look or listen*	This **caught my attention**.
9	**catch someone by surprise** *surprise someone*	You **caught me by surprise**!
10	**catch one's breath** *try to breathe normally*	I need to **catch my breath**.

9. break

Learn common phrases with "break" and practice the sentences below!

1	**break one's arm/ankle** *damage your arm/ankle bone*	I fell and **broke my arm**! Ouch.
2	**Break a leg** *Good luck! (idiom)*	Good luck! **Break a leg**.
3	**break one's heart** *make someone very sad*	He **broke my heart**.
4	**break one's window** *damage a window*	Did someone **break my window**?
5	**break the rules/law** *do something illegal*	Don't **break the rules**.
6	**break a promise** *not keep your word*	I never **break a promise** with my friends.
7	**break a habit** *stop doing something regularly*	I need to **break a** bad **habit** of biting my nails.
8	**break a record** *do something better than before*	The athlete has **broken the** world **record**!
9	**break the ice** *make people comfortable*	To **break the ice**, I talked to her about the weather.
10	**break the news to someone** *telll someone important news*	Okay, I'm going to **break the news to you**.

10. pay

Learn common phrases with "pay" and practice the sentences below!

1	**pay attention** *focus and listen*	Hello, **pay attention**!
2	**pay by credit card/in cash** *buy something with credit card or cash*	Can I **pay by credit card**?
3	**pay someone a visit** *go to see someone*	Let's **pay him a visit**.
4	**pay respects** *show respect*	We should **pay our respects**.
5	**pay the bills** *pay for services like electricity*	I need to **pay the bills** this month.
6	**pay someone back** *return borrowed money*	She hasn't **paid me back** yet.
7	**pay the price** *face the consequences of an action*	If you make a mistake, you should **pay the price**.
8	**pay interest** *pay extra money for borrowing*	You have to **pay interest** on the loan.
9	**pay a fine** *pay money for breaking rules*	Did you park here? You'll have to **pay a fine**.
10	**pay someone a compliment** *say something nice to someone*	Make sure to **pay him a compliment**.